

Native American Caregiver Support Program (NACSP)

South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency

THE SOUTH PUGET INTERTRIBAL PLANNING AGENCY (SPIPA)

represents five tribes in Washington State, including Chehalis, Nisqually, Shoalwater Bay, Skokomish and Squaxin Island Tribes. In 2001, SPIPA, representing Chehalis and Nisqually, was awarded a Native American Caregiver Support Program demonstration grant to demonstrate how coordination and leveraging of services can increase resources to family caregivers providing care for their elders.



South Fork of the Chehalis River

The Chehalis Tribe reservation lands are situated approximately 26 miles

southwest of Olympia and six miles northwest of Centralia.



Mount Rainier

The Nisqually Tribe is located on the Nisqually River in rural Thurston County, 15 miles east of Olympia, Washington. Tribal land holdings, on and near the Nisqually reservation, exceed 1,000 acres.

The SPIPA Caregiver Support Program found that the elderly population of the two Tribes has been significantly underserved in basic health and human services when compared to service provided other sectors of the Tribal population. The two tribes and the SPIPA are working to overcome this discrepancy through a broad based Elder services initiative that includes senior nutrition, elder health care, energy assistance, home health care, and social and cultural activities and programs. The Caregiver Support Initiative was developed to support this overall effort.

Caregiver Support Program Goals

The goals of the SPIPA Caregiver Support Program include:

- Assessing current caregiver support both through Tribal and non-Tribal programs;
- Identifying barriers to accessing these resources;
- Developing an inventory of resources that are currently available to caregivers;
- Developing and demonstrating a program model for maximizing the coordination and leveraging of caregiver resources; and
- Sharing information with other Tribal groups and organizations facing similar challenges.

Lessons Learned

The Chehalis and Nisqually caregiver coordinators have been meeting on a weekly basis to review, discuss and plan the Caregiver Project Manual. They have shared their different activities and contacts. Outreach to let others know about their programs was accomplished through the Intertribal News as well as other local media resources.



A barrier to the success of this project that this program faced is not uncommon to many Tribes, turnover of personnel. Like many programs, when you lose a principal coordinator of a program you lose the momentum. Due to the resignation of the caregiver coordinator at Nisqually the project has only been able to meet some of their goals. However, lessons learned are a very important component to a demonstration grant.

For additional information regarding this project contact:

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

AoA recognizes the importance of making information readily available to consumers, professionals, researchers, and students. Our website provides information for and about older persons, their families, and professionals involved in aging programs and services. For more information about AoA, please contact: US Dept of Health and Human Services, Administration on Aging, Washington, DC 20201; phone: (202) 401-4541; fax (202) 357-3560; Email: aoainfo@aoa.gov; or contact our website at: www.aoa.gov